

I am Max Wolf, a retired officer and organizer for the Service Employees International union and I am here in my capacity of Secretary of the MD-DC division of the Alliance for Retired Americans representing **2.7** million retirees nationwide.

I believe my colleagues selected me to come here , because they wanted someone who was old enough to have been around when enviornment was invented.

You may well ask is there any special viewpoint that senior citizens have on the enviornment. With few special opprtunities like more time for gardening, travel, fishing, sitting on a solid wood rocker, I can't think of any thig that seperates our viewpoint from all others, except we have been party to much experience and change. I shall attempt to address some of those concerns.

We still worry about clean air, clear water, the forests and the green space that are being degraded, polluted, toxic.

The disasters that have brought about laws to remedy, protect and enhance our quality of life because enviornment is equal in science to health or medical care.

When Rachel Carson alerted the world to contamination of the earth and waters, and love canal alerted us to another type of

contamination, when miners suffered from black lung, while school children are endangered by lead paint and asbestos in their sanctuarial schoolrooms, or slum homes.

We are alarmed to be part of families that are decimated by lung cancer and emphysema,

Yes we have gone after the polluters, to some degree. We have passed regulations and laws to limit toxification of particles in water, food and air, but only limits to how many particles of arsenic is allowable or the toxic emissions from gasoline. We have watched our forests and trees ravaged and only stumps left like gravemarkers that soon may become our new deserts.

Smokestacks still emit filth and are carried on the winds from far distant places. And we talk of global warming endangering our planet and the bulldozing of rain forests.

Yes, those of us that are aware have gotten local, state and federal laws and regulations passed by fighting and kicking and dragging the abusers before the bar of public opinion, but the moneyed corporations and their paid lobbyists are sometimes more powerful than the affected or their ethical causes.

It is therefore disheartening that the present

administration has rolled back regulations on the environment and appears not to have an agenda which best serve the environmental needs of our country, or becomes isolationist in the world environmental community.

Every once in a while I am confronted by a man in a robe carrying a sign saying "the end is coming."

I do not know if he is right, but I hope we won't accelerate it.

I therefore make one strong recommendation. GET TOUGH.

410 764 1975